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The Urban Link

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Viewpoint

Tom Carter, Director

Thunder Bird House, photo Alan McTavish

University of Winnipeg Student Residences

Downtown Revitalization: Many Positive Developments, but Regional Approach Needed

After a recent game of golf the discussion turned to the problem of downtown. One person commented that he had not been downtown for almost two years, only to be upstaged by another who stated his only contact with downtown in recent years was driving through it to reach other destinations. It was almost as though there was a sense of pride in avoiding downtown. Two people does not represent a proper sample but I wonder how many other residents of Winnipeg feel the same way? More than two I suspect. Does this suggest our downtown is no longer competitive or attractive? Are we pursuing the proper policies to make our downtown more competitive?

Debate surrounding the redevelopment of the Eatons' site has once again raised important questions regarding our current efforts to revitalize our central business district, a tall order in the slow-growth economy that characterizes Winnipeg. Like so many North American cities, our downtown is now but one commercial node in a multi-centred region as commercial centres have emerged throughout Winnipeg's suburban areas. Besides the suburban shopping centres, additional competition for downtown comes from growing numbers of big box outlets and strip malls.

There is no doubt that cities have to position their downtowns to compete more effectively with the suburbs. Downtowns no longer survive just as places to shop and work—they have to be much more. Many cities are refocusing their central business districts as centres for the arts, culture, entertainment, health services, education, convention centres, the hospitality industry, jobs in the new economy, and yes, sports activities. They are also attempting to convince more people to live downtown.

So, how is Winnipeg doing in this respect?

1. Centre Venture is providing assistance with feasibility studies of older, often unoccupied, office buildings and vacant lots to determine their suitability for adaptive reuse and conversion to

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The Urban Link Volume 1, Issue 1 Newsletter of the Institute of Urban Studies

Editors' Link

Welcome to *The Urban Link*, the Institute of Urban Studies' online newsletter. The name may be new, (as are the volume and issue numbers) but the Institute has, in fact, been publishing a newsletter since November 1971. We had hoped to release it in time for its 30th anniversary, but have, unfortunately, missed the deadline.

The reason? We haven't actually produced a newsletter since March of 1998 and there was much catching up to do. The last incarnation of the newsletter was a web-based publication called *Prairie Urban Report* that ran for three issues starting in May 1996. Before this interruption the IUS newsletter ran for 46 issues, from November 1971 to December 1994–the last 17 of which ran with no real title as such, besides the name of the Institute on the masthead.

Those 49 editions represent a fascinating documentation not only of the activities of the Institute, but also of the urban issues, controversies and opinions that have shaped policy and practice for three decades. In its pages one can read contemporary news and opinion about such important topics as Unicity, housing, inner city revitalization, women's issues and sustainability. (The latter concern was a particular focus of the newsletter between December of 1991 and 1994, when IUS produced 8 editions of the Sustainable Cities supplement). Of special note, too, are the familiar names that appear in the newsletter's pages: Alan Artibise, Kent Gerecke, Leo Driedger, William Rees and, of course, Lloyd Axworthy.

For students of the urban scene, particularly those interested in the history of urban issues in Winnipeg, the IUS Newsletter represents a valuable resource; as such, we plan in future issues of *The Urban Link* to take regular backward glances at the past as portrayed in the newsletter. As well, we keep all our back issues in the IUS Library.

The need for information and opinion regarding urban issues is greater than ever. Cities are on the front line of almost every important ecological, social and economic challenge facing our society. As such, we intend that The Urban Link will assist the Institute of Urban Studies in continuing its tradition of contributing to healthy debate surrounding these issues. To meet this goal we will be actively seeking commentary from those involved in current and noteworthy initiatives, innovations, controversies and developments. This month, for instance, we are running an editorial by David Lettner, spokesperson for the Save the Eaton's Coalition. As our name implies, The Urban Link will also highlight the activities of other organizations and community based groups in the city–in the present case, the Manitoba Eco-Network and its library.

Of course our primary purpose is to keep the community informed about the activities of the Institute, and, as you will doubtless agree after reading the pages below, there is much on which to report! Thank you for reading our newsletter; we look forward to "linking" with the community for many years to come.

The Urban Link is a quarterly newsletter published by the Institute of Urban Studies. The newsletter serves as a forum for community organizations and other individuals to express views and relay information about urban issues related to the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian cities. The newsletter also disseminates information about the Institute of Urban Studies and major initiatives housed at the Institute. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those held by the Institute of Urban Studies or the University of Winnipeg. The Urban Link is co-edited by Stephanie Heidenreich and Michael Dudley. Contributions are welcomed on an ongoing basis! Please contact Stephanie Heidenreich or Michael Dudley at (204) 982-1140, or ius@uwinnipeg.ca. © Institute of Urban Studies, 2001.

Viewpoint cont'd...

apartments or commercial activities. Centre Venture, working with the City, has also undertaken an extensive marketing campaign to attract business back downtown.

2. The Downtown Biz has placed an emphasis on community safety and services with the introduction of the Downtown Watch Ambassador Program. A recent report indicates that sixty-five to seventy percent of those surveyed feel this Program has made a difference on the streets in the inner city. The emphasis the Biz programs place on graffiti removal and keeping the downtown clean has also received positive feedback from the business community.

3. Streetscape improvements throughout the downtown, but particularly on Main Street, have been introduced to make the downtown more attractive.

4. Numerous festivals and special events, including concerts, have been introduced to provide people with a reason to visit downtown. Development at The Forks attracts visitors on a year-round basis. The City has taken small but positive steps to attract investment. The Heritage Tax Credit and other incentive packages have been instrumental in attracting businesses and new jobs back to the central business district.

5. The three levels of government are investing funds in housing and other social programs to address the residential decay and problems facing those in poverty. In addition, money from the Federal National Infrastructure Program is assisting with the development of Waterfront Drive and the pedestrian bridge that will connect St. Boniface with the Forks. These two initiatives will provide better access to the Forks (which is somewhat isolated from other areas), and Waterfront Drive will help open up the Exchange District and encourage investment in the area.

6. Our own University of Winnipeg, with the generous assistance of the three levels of government, is purchasing and renovating older homes to provide housing for students, adding to the resident population of the downtown and inner city.

7. Investment in educational facilities such as Red River College will enhance the vitality of the downtown. The Province has also taken an active role to encourage agencies to establish leases near the Red River College. Establishing projects in close association with each other is an effective revitalization strategy.

8. Finally, considerable investment by Aboriginal organizations in the area of Higgins and Main (Thunderbird House and the Aboriginal Centre in the old C.P. R. Station, for example) provides the focus for further development in this area.

I could continue, but these few examples suggest we are taking small but positive steps in the right direction. Are we doing enough? Is there enough funding going into revitalization initiatives? The quick and simple answer is No! Are there other initiatives or policies we should pursue? The quick answer is Yes!

Cities today operate in a very competitive environment - the global economy. Winnipeg has to compete not only with Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, but also with other cities like Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago and Denver. Some cities, because of size and location, are better placed than others to compete. It seems unwise to allow competition to run its course without interventionist policies; that would simply leave us with even greater social and economic disparities between regions and cities.

"Cities today operate in a very competitive environment - the global economy."

Governments must invest more money in "levelling the playing field." Although the federal government has largely been absent from the urban policy scene in recent years, it must play a role in addressing the regional inequities that are inevitable in this competitive global economy. Federal policy must support and enhance local initiatives.

More significant growth in cities such as Toronto and Vancouver also allows suburban development to proceed with enough demand left over to maintain viable, growing downtowns.

If there is a role for the federal government in supporting strategic policy at the regional level, then local governments must also respond with sound strategic policy at the local level. The limited

demand in slow growth cities like Winnipeg makes it more difficult to redevelop the downtown while suburban growth proceeds unchecked. *Plan Winnipeg* suggests that new development should not compete unduly with activities downtown. The proliferation and continual expansion of retail, service and commercial services throughout the urban area seems to fly in the face of sound strategic policy as stated in *Plan Winnipeg*.

We simply have to adopt smarter growth policies on a regional basis. In this new economy, it will be regions that will compete, or fail to compete, nationally and internationally. In the slow-growth economy with which we are faced, however, competing is difficult without regional planning strategies. While it seems highly unlikely that Winnipeg and the surrounding municipalities will

"We simply have to adopt smarter growth policies on a regional basis."

voluntarily draw an urban growth boundary, merge their governments into a single regional metropolitan government and agree to plan happily ever after, this does not negate the need for, nor should it reduce efforts to develop, a regional growth strategy that is sensitive to environmental issues, provides cost-effective urban development alternatives, and does not compete unfairly with the City of Winnipeg. If this means restricting rural residential development to certain areas around the City, maintaining agricultural land in others, or introducing cost

"The limited demand in slow growth cities like Winnipeg makes it more difficult to redevelop the downtown while suburban growth proceeds unchecked."

and/or tax sharing of regional services, including services for more marginalized populations in inner city Winnipeg, so be it. Competing growth and development policies in Winnipeg and surrounding municipalities will only serve to make regional growth strategies less cost-effective, placing the broader metropolitan region at a disadvantage relative to other cities.

So where does this leave the Eatons' site and the new multi-purpose complex? In my opinion there may have been better sites for a downtown complex, but it should definitely be downtown. It will not in itself revitalize the downtown, but it will make a modest contribution - another small step in the right direction. It is my sense that we are doing a lot of things right, but there are broader policy and planning issues much greater than the Eatons' site that have to be addressed if we hope to create that new, viable, exciting downtown where people want to live, work, shop and be entertained.

Urban Links: Profiling Winnipeg's Community

The Manitoba Eco-Network and the Alice Chambers Memorial Library

The Manitoba Eco-Network is an umbrella of non-governmental environmental groups from around the province. This non-partisan network is a registered charitable organization that is affiliated with the Ottawa-based Canadian Environmental Network. The Manitoba Eco-Network acts as a liaison between Manitobans and national and international environmental movements, and provides a base for information and action on the part of local environmental groups. As well, the Manitoba Eco-Network provides the necessary resources, assistance and tools to help people develop their understanding of local and global environmental issues.

The resources for the Manitoba Eco-Network are housed in the Alice Chambers Memorial Library (ACML) collection, named after a treasured member of the Manitoba environmental community, Alice Chambers. The collection includes government publications, videos, books, journal articles, and an assortment of fact-sheets and archived emails that pertain to environmental issues. In addition, the ACML holds subscriptions to numerous journals including *The Ecologist, Journal of Pesticide Reform, Earth Island Journal, Green Teacher* and *Alternatives.*

One of the most important resources at the ACML is the Public Registry. Often, the initial indica-

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What's New At IUS?

Just about everything! New staff. New projects. New Library. New Newsletter. Over the past year there have been many changes at IUS.

New staff joining the Institute over the past year include **Jino Distasio** as Project Manager and Senior Policy Analyst. With education and work experience in housing and urban development, **Jino** brings needed depth and management skills to the research team.

Stephanie Heidenreich and **Michael Dudley** have also joined IUS as Research Associates. **Stephanie**, in addition to her responsibilities on various research projects, is Managing Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* and is working on revitalizing the publications program.

Michael, with Master's Degrees in Library Science and City Planning, is well qualified for his main responsibility, re-organizing and expanding the IUS Reference Library, which is now accessible on-line for students, faculty and people in the community. Michael is also responsible for a number of research initiatives.

Dan Chekki has joined the Institute as Principal Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*. With more than ten years of experience as Principal Editor of an international journal in Urban Sociology, his experience will lend added credibility to the *Journal*.

Brian Lorch, Chair of the Geography Department at Thunder Bay, is a Visiting Researcher while on sabbatical. His research interests concern retail development and marketing issues and his current work focuses on Winnipeg.

During the past year **Kate Peach** worked with the Institute prior to moving on to Calgary to pursue graduate work and research in Anthropology. While at IUS she handled administrative duties as well as making a significant contribution to the development of the *Journal*.

Tom Janzen and **Christa Jacobucci** joined us in April as Research Assistants for the summer and remain part-time with us since returning to classes. Their assistance on research projects has proven invaluable. Other students joining us more recently include **Lesley Gaudry, Richard Thompson** and **Leanne Anderson** to help us with community needs assessment and general data collection on other projects, as well as **Brandi Meilleur** who works part time in the Library., and **Kathleen Hansen** who is doing some map work for the Institute.

Jillian Golby joined the Institute in August to provide administrative support and research assistance, particularly with survey research and literature reviews.

Roewan Crowe, working as the Community Liaison Director for WIRA, the Community University Research Alliance Project (administered by IUS), has joined the Institute on a part-time basis. Her work with community groups helps facilitate the development of research under the Project.

Rounding out the staff is our "French Connection," **Laura Baisillon**. Working with IUS on a contract basis from Montreal, Laura will be assisting us on a number of research projects as well as providing French-language translation services.

What is not new at IUS is the Director. Back for my fourth time, I am enjoying another secondment to the Institute. Over the next couple of years I plan to work with the new staff to lay the foundation for a more sustainable Institute, then it is off to more golf!

Tom Carter, Director

Urban Links cont'd...

tion of an environmental issue relating to development will be recorded in the Public Registry, (established by the *Environmental Assessment Act* to ensure convenient public access to environmental assessment records – *ed*). The ACML houses copies of the Public Registry pertaining to projects in Manitoba. At the present time, the ACML is transferring the Public Registry into an Access database with the goal of placing it online to increase its availability to a wider audience.

The ACML's Librarian, Larry Laliberte, is available 20 hours per week to assist the public in meeting their information needs and to educate the public in techniques for locating information, especially in digital formats and on the Internet.

Manitoba Eco-Network homepage:
www.web.net/men/
Information on Alice Chambers:
www.cpaws.org/about/tribute-alicechambers.html
Information on the Public Registry:
www.mb.ec.gc.ca/community/b00s04.en.html

Mixed-Use Facility at Eaton's is a Viable Alternative to True North's Arena Proposal

By David Lettner (Perspective)

The current proposal to construct a new downtown arena on the present Eaton's site is rife with potential functional and operational problems that have been largely overlooked or ignored for the sake of concluding a deal with the minimum level of public debate and external scrutiny.

For the record, I am not opposed to: a new arena (even in the absence of any demonstrated need); nor public funds being allocated for such a facility (so long as such funds reflect a prudent public investment); or a downtown site providing that all functional and operational requirements can be addressed in an effective manner.

"What are the consequences of shoehorning an arena on to a site that is over 100 feet narrower than the planned arena's width?"

My concerns with the current True North arena proposal are twofold. First, considering that at last report $38 M in public funding is being provided for the project, some fairly tough questions should be asked, answered and made part of the public record. To date this has not occurred in a thorough enough manner to justify the commitment of any public funding. It is also fair to ask that if $38 M of public funding were spent on revitalizing the Eaton's building as a mixed use facility, would we not create a more positive downtown legacy that gave the public better bang for its revitalization buck?

"...financial inducements significantly less than that required for the arena project would make the Eaton's project economically viable..."

Secondly, it seems that very little attention is being paid to site planning issues, which will have a significant impact on the immediate functional and operational viability of the proposed arena facility. What are the consequences of shoehorning an arena on to a site that, at 266 frontage feet, is over 100 feet narrower than the planned arena's width? Hargrave Street would be narrowed to two lanes at grade level to accommodate the arena footprint, and overbuilt above grade level, creating a tunnel effect along the entire block. Significant public circulation areas on the main floor concourse will only be about 25 feet in width, roughly half the width of many circulation areas in the existing arena. How have the functional and operational issues been addressed with respect to accommodating the logistics associated with staging major events such as concerts? Tractor trailer units, tour buses, television trucks, custom coaches, taxis, transit buses, automobiles and 15,000 pedestrians will all jockey for position on one-way streets with turning restrictions and narrow sidewalks with no plaza areas.

As well, the arena project is not economically viable without almost $40 M in public funding, or approximately 32% of the estimated arena cost of $125 M. Given the previous examples of adaptive reuse projects in Winnipeg and other jurisdictions, financial inducements significantly less than that required for the arena project would make the Eaton's project economically viable. The Eaton's building could be completely renovated for $50 M, assuming a mixed use development of 500,000 square feet and overly conservative construction costs of $100 per square foot.

Typically, public sector financial incentives of between 10 to 20 percent of the total project costs are sufficient to induce the implementation of an adaptive reuse project for a heritage building; so between $5 and $10 M would be required as a catalyst for redeveloping the Eaton's building.

The Eaton's building would also yield a greater return on investment due to the increased assessments and associated tax revenue, estimated to be $5.5 M annually for a 500,000 square-foot mixed-use project. Additionally, a mixed use Eaton's project would generate significant spin-off benefits for other downtown business interests, as it would generate 365 days of activity on anannual basis.

The new arena, by contrast, requires a much higher initial capital investment, and contributes minimal revenue due to tax concessions and operating subsidies from gaming facilities. Furthermore, the proposed arena will not generate significant economic spin-offs for the downtown due to the limited nature of the project's use as an event

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Mixed-Use cont'd....

facility which will only be utilized an estimated 130 times a year.

The burden of proof is squarely on the shoulders of the public/private sector partnership to conclusively demonstrate that these and other critical issues have been properly addressed. To date, the partnership has failed to adequately engage and inform the public in what has largely been a back room deal with potentially destructive consequences for the downtown. Sadly, the political process has abandoned broader issues of public interest, in spite of substantial financial commitments to the current arena proposal and associated implications for the senseless demolition of a valuable community asset. There are alternative sites in the downtown that could accommodate a new arena, thereby preserving opportunities for proceeding with a second and arguably more significant project involving the renewal of the Eaton's building. The arena project need not proceed at the expense of the Eaton's building. It is the responsibility of decision makers to find an alternative site for a downtown arena and to provide incentives for the adaptive reuse of the Eaton's building so that both projects can contribute to downtown revitalization.

"...a mixed use Eaton's project would generate significant spin-off benefits for other downtown business interests..."

David E. Lettner, M.P.A., Principal
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Planning and Policy Consultants
e-mail: delandassoc@home.com

Eaton's Building
(photo credit: Save the Eaton's Building Coalition)

Note: Developers have now put forth specific proposals for adapting the Eaton's building into a mixed-use facility. For more information please see:

www.saveeatonsbuilding.ca

Allan Gotlieb lends support to Bid to Save the Eaton's Building

By Michael Dudley

On October 30th, The Manitoba Historical Society, Heritage Winnipeg and the Save the Eaton's Building Coalition sponsored a noon hour luncheon with guest speaker Allan Gotlieb. Mr. Gotlieb is past Chairman of the Canada Council and has served as the Canadian ambassador to the United States. Currently he is serving as Chairman of the Donner Canadian Foundation and Sotheby's (Canada) Inc., and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

In his address, Mr. Gotlieb spoke of the "power of preservation" and the contributions that heritage buildings make to the creation and perpetuation of a city's character, which is otherwise considered a "soft," or intangible, quality. Winnipeg's core area has long been in decline. Gotlieb attributed this in part to the zeal with which the city destroyed so many of its heritage buildings for Canada's Centennial anniversary. In particular, he cited the loss of the old city hall and Market Square, which used to be the focus of tremendous vitality and street life that extended for blocks in all directions. With the redevelopment of the city hall area, which includes the Civic Centre, the Museum of Man and Nature and the Centennial Concert Hall, the former street life ceased, and the city has yet to recover.

"Winnipeg's core area has long been in decline, and Gotlieb attributed this in part to the zeal with which the city destroyed so many of its heritage buildings..."

Now the City of Winnipeg is considering another project which will, in Gotlieb's opinion, once again ignore the city's heritage and contribute to the decline of downtown. He noted that the proposed True North Arena will not bring people downtown to live and create the vitality needed to bring downtown to life; instead people will drive in, watch an event, and drive away. Buildings that promote active street life are those that relate to the street and allow the streets to flow into them. The proposal for a multi-use complex put forth by the Save the Eaton's Building Coalition exemplifies this principle, while the Arena as proposed has little relationship to the street. In closing, Mr. Gotlieb noted that heritage buildings connect the past to the future. As such, they are not really "ours" — rather they belong to those who built them, and to those who will follow us.

Centre of Excellence
For Child & Youth Centred Prairie Communities

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Date: **Tuesday, January 8, 2002**
Time: **11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
Place: **Manitoba Children's Museum**

As part of the federal government's **National Children's Agenda**, five (5) **Centres of Excellence for Children's Well Being** have been implemented across Canada to disseminate advanced knowledge on key issues of children's health to those individuals or groups who need it most.

On Tuesday, January 8/02 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Manitoba Children's Museum, The Institute of Urban Studies will host the official launch of the Centre of Excellence for Child & Youth Centred Prairie Communities, announcing our 4-year research agenda and provincial partners.

This research agenda is relevant to all community stakeholders – families, organizations, and academia because it will provide **relevant and accessible information** to help communities care for children by examining the ways in which Prairie communities can **optimize healthy child & youth development**.

Children's entertainment and a cake cutting ceremony are also planned.

Please RSVP your attendance by calling:
Michael Dudley at 982-1145

The Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth-Centred Prairie Communities

By Michael Dudley

After five years of consultation and planning by a Winnipeg-based consortium, the Federal Government, on October 5th 2000, announced a five-year initiative to create a Prairie Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities. The goal of these centres – which are actually multiple networks of diverse organizations located in six small- to mid-sized prairie cities – is to undertake research that will foster the healthy development of children and youth across the prairies. The emphasis of these Health Canada-funded research projects is to examine the well-being of children and youth in terms of social, economic, demographic, political and cultural factors, rather than purely medical ones. The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg supervises the networks across the Prairies, and had also, until recently, acted as the local network lead as well.

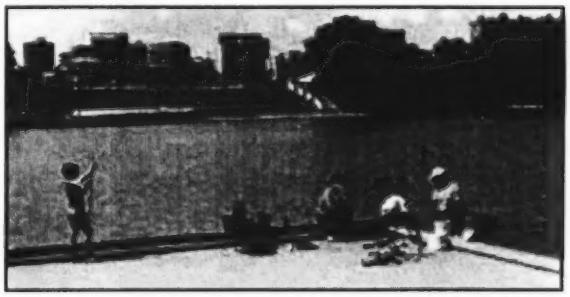
...undertaking research to foster the healthy development of children and youth across the prairies...

As of October 26th, 2001 the Institute of Urban Studies has taken on the role of lead organization of the Winnipeg Network. Much of the work undertaken by the Institute of Urban Studies over the past 30 years has documented the many social, demographic and economic conditions to which the Centre's initial consortium partners initially responded.

These factors, in affecting such crucial indicators as access to services, household income, safety, rates of crime, quality of diet, parental and youth employment opportunities and self concept, are all major determinants of the well-being of children and youth. It is within the sphere of these indicators of social change that the Centre has elected to engage the efforts of its member networks, with the intention that through research these factors may be better understood and contextualized in terms of the health and well-being of children and youth. By building on existing knowledge concerned with the socio-economic influences on the health and well-being of youth, ameliorative and innovative policies may be created, implemented and promoted through the maintenance of vibrant networks and the use of a variety of venues and modes of communication.

The local Networks, consisting of community volunteers, are administered by Chairpersons and are also represented on the (prairie-wide) Management Committee. The local Network Steering Committee makes recommendations to the Network. The research agendas undertaken by each Network will be determined by the Steering committee, which includes amongst its members representatives from community groups. A Research sub-committee will also serve as a liaison between the Steering Committee, the Network and the University. IUS and the Steering Committee will be hiring a Research and Network Coordinator who will work out of IUS.

The Institute of Urban Studies will be involved in this capacity for the duration of current funding, which goes until 2005. We are anticipating fruitful and mutually rewarding research partnerships, and are confident that the resulting research will aid in improving the health and well-being of Winnipeg's young people.



For more information about the Centre of Excellence, please contact Michael Dudley, Research Associate and Librarian at IUS at:

m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca
(204) 982-1145

For more information on this initiative as a whole, please see the Health Canada Website:
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/childhood-youth/centres/e_communities.html

New Directions for Federal Urban Policy

By Stephanie Heidenreich

Some have argued that cities do not currently have the capacity to adequately respond to the challenges they face today. Among these challenges are tougher competition in an increasingly globalized economy and an at times bumpy transition to the "new economy" (based on information technology and service sectors rather than the traditional manufacturing sector), as well as the need to address the realities of urban decline which are all too prevalent in many urban centres today.

In light of these new realities, the federal government is looking once more at ways to become involved in urban issues, after withdrawing from this area over the last 20 years. Not since the creation of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and Housing in 1971 has Ottawa contemplated so direct a role for federal government in the urban sphere.

Among the major initiatives currently underway in Canada are the Big City Mayors' Caucus and the Prime Minister's Task Force on Urban Issues, both announced in May of this year. In Winnipeg, a Roundtable was held to discuss potential areas of federal involvement in Canadian cities.

A **Roundtable on Federal Policy Priorities in the Winnipeg Area**, hosted by the Institute of Urban Studies in November 2000, determined that there was a distinct need for increased federal involvement in urban regions. Twenty-five (25) participants representing the local business, government and academic communities as well as the third sector, discussed potential roles for the federal government in urban centres. It was generally agreed that Canada's vitality depends largely on the well-being of its cities. Renewed federal interest in urban areas comes at a time when their critical role in the national economy is recognized more than ever, even as economic, social, demographic and environmental changes demand that cities respond with a greater degree of innovation and vigour if they are to thrive. The results of the roundtable have been published in Guidelines for Federal Policy Priorities in Urban Areas (Institute of Urban Studies, January 30, 2001; To order, please contact ius@uwinnipeg.ca).

IUS Staff – at Large!

Teaching

This past term IUS staff have been teaching courses in the University of Winnipeg's Urban Studies program. Tom Carter and Jino Distasio have been team-teaching "Urban Revitalization: Rebuilding of Decaying Cities", while Michael Dudley has been teaching "Issues in Sustainable Cities".

Publishing

Michael Dudley's article "Sprawl as Strategy: City Planners Face the Bomb" appeared in the September 2001 issue of *The Journal of Planning Education and Research*. In October PLANetizen ran his editorial on planning discourse after the tragedies of Sept. 11th (www.planetizen.com/oped).

The **Big City Mayors' Caucus**, representing five of Canada's largest cities (Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen, Calgary Mayor Al Duerr, Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman and Montréal Mayor Pierre Bourque), was held in Winnipeg in May 2001, and launched an ongoing exploration of a new alignment of legislative and fiscal authority to improve the competitiveness of Canadian cities in the global economy. The two-day meeting was organized by Mayor Murray and internationally-renowned urban philosopher Jane Jacobs, who lent her expertise to the sessions. The Mayors will meet again in Vancouver, in January 2002.

The Prime Minister of Canada has also launched a **Task Force on Urban Issues**, chaired by Judy Sgro. The task force is charged with looking at economic competitiveness, environmental issues, culture, transit, settlement and immigration, needs of groups considered to be at risk (Aboriginal, recent immigrants, persons with disabilities, the homeless), as well as crime-related issues. Consultations are underway to generate feedback as to how the federal government can work more collaboratively to improve the quality of life in large urban centres. An interim report is expected to be released in April 2002.

If recent urban initiatives are any indication of things to come, this millennium holds new promise for a vibrant era for Canadian cities. There appears to be a growing recognition that cities are indeed the country's "economic growth engines" and "centres of innovation," and as such need to be placed on the national agenda once more.

IUS Library - Open for Research

By Michael Dudley

- Need to trace the history of The Forks?

- Need to compare housing policies in the United States to those in Canada?

- Want to know how Aboriginal people organize their urban communities?

These topics and many more are dealt with in the thousands of documents held in the Library at the Institute of Urban Studies. The Library is composed of monographs, planning documents, government documents, periodicals, newsletters, microforms, photographs, reference works, conference reports, academic papers, statistics, computer files and pamphlet files.

Unfortunately, a great deal of this very valuable research has for many years been uncatalogued and difficult to access. Now, after almost two years of closure, and thanks to project funding from Western Diversification and the Winnipeg Foundation, the research library at the Institute has reopened as of October 2001.

The Library will for the first time have its collection fully integrated with the University of Winnipeg's. This means that users can not only find IUS items on the UWinnipeg online Library catalogue, Mercury (cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca), but they can borrow these items as well, using their University of Winnipeg library card.

In addition to the physical materials in the collection, the Library will have an important presence on the Institute's website, and will provide links to other relevant information sources. An effort will also be made to conduct outreach with local universities and community organizations to promote the Library's services. Members of community-based organizations who are not affiliated with the UWinnipeg will also be able to borrow from the collection once arrangements have been made with the University of Winnipeg.

For more information, as well as tips on how to search the Library's holdings, please check the IUS website in the coming weeks.

From the Shelves– New at the IUS Library

The Institute has recently become a member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research (ICURR). ICURR provides access to a unique and comprehensive database and lending library regarding local government and planning issues, and is frequently consulted by municipal and other public sector employees, planners, consultants and academics. ICURR's Information Service includes a 10,000-item circulating library of books, videos, reports and articles. The database may be accessed at: *www.icurr.org.*

Membership in ICURR allows the Institute to become a local access point to the ICURR collection. Individuals may, for a fee, request an ICURR item though the Institute of Urban Studies. This will be a particularly important service for students, as acquiring materials through ICURR is otherwise a much more expensive process.

For more information, please contact: Michael Dudley, tel. (204) 982-1145; E-mail m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca

The IUS Library, 346 Portage Avenue

The Canadian Journal of Urban Research

The *Canadian Journal of Urban Studies*, a multi-disciplinary, academic journal published by the IUS, is heading into its tenth year of publication. What better time to become acquainted, or reacquainted, with a unique voice speaking on urban research in Canada. To order the journal, please visit the *CJUR* page on the IUS website.

CJUR 9:2 (December 2000)

Articles: Perspectives on Housing

- **Housing Strategies for Downtown Revitalization in Mid-Size Cities: A City of Kitchener Feasibility Study** *(Trudi Bunting, Pierre Filion, Sybil Frenette, Dan Curry, and Randy Mattice)*

- **Cooperative and Nonprofit Housing in Winnipeg: Toward a Re-engagement of the Provision of Infrastructure** *(Ian Skelton)*

- **Some Consequences of Economic and Political Change for a Toronto Housing Cooperative** *(Matthew Cooper and Margaret Rodman)*

Book Reviews

Agnew, Vijay. *In Search of a Safe Place*
Boyd, Susan B., ed. *Challenging the Public/Private Divide*
Brock, Deborah R. *Making Work, Making Trouble*
Bryson, Lois and Ian Winter. *Social Change, Suburban Lives*
Carbone, Stanislao. *Italians in Winnipeg*
Cohen, Richard. *Taylor's Campaign* (video)
Cummings, Scott. *Left Behind in Rosedale*
Halli, Shiva S. and Leo Driedger, eds. *Immigrant Canada*
Hutton, Thomas A. *The Transformation of Canada's Pacific Metropolis*
Kazemipur, Abdolmohammad and Shiva S. **Halli.** *The New Poverty in Canada*
Roseland, Mark with Maureen **Cureton** and Heather **Wornell,** with foreword by Hazel **Henderson.** *Toward Sustainable Communities*
Rothblatt, Donald N. and Andrew **Sancton,** eds. *Metropolitan Government Revisited*
Southall, Aidan. *The City in Time and Space: From Birth to Apocalypse*

Subscribing to CJUR entitles individuals to a membership in the Canadian Urban Research Network (CURN), a listserve to facilitate the exchange of information among those interested in urban issues.

CJUR accepts manuscripts on an ongoing basis. For detailed submission guidelines, please go to: www.uwinnipeg.ca/~ius/appel.htm. CJUR publishes manuscripts in both English and French.

CJUR 10:1 (Summer 2001)

Articles

- **Canadian Mayors: A Profile and Determinants of Electoral Success** *(Joseph Kushner, David Siegel, and Hannah Stanwick)*

- **Planning, Participation and Identity in Quebec City: Community Building through Urban Revitalization** *(Martin Simard and Guy Mercier)*

- **Detroit's Suburban Office Centres** *(Malcolm Matthew)*

- **Visible Minorities and Urban Analysis** *(Harald Bauder)*

Book Reviews

Bunting, Trudi and Pierre **Filion,** eds. Canadian Cities in Transition: The Twenty-First Century
Burayidi, Michael A., ed. *Urban Planning in a Multicultural Society*
Christensen, Karen Stromme. *Cities and Complexity: Making Intergovernmental Decisions*
Ford, Larry R. *The Spaces between Buildings*
Germain, Annick and Damaris **Rose.** *Montréal: The Quest for a Metropolis*
Glasser, Irene and Rae **Bridgman.** *Braving the Street: The Anthropology of Homelessness*
Heikkila, Eric. *The Economics of Planning*
Keating, W. Dennis and **Krumholz,** Norman, eds. *Rebuilding Urban Neighbourhoods: Achievements, Opportunities, and Limits*
Keating, W. Dennis, Michael B. **Teitz** and Andrejs **Skaburskis.** *Rent Control: Regulation and the Rental Housing Market*
Kobza, Kim Patrick. *There Goes the Neighborhood: Protecting Your Home and Community from Poor Development Choices*
Luger, Michael and Kenneth **Temkin.** *Red Tape and Housing Costs: How Regulation Affects New Residential Development*
Min, Eungjun. *Reading the Homeless: The Media's Image of Homeless Culture*
Rodwin, Lloyd and Bishwapriya **Sanyal,** eds. *The Profession of City Planning*
Sandalack, Beverly A. and Andrei **Nicolai.** *Urban Structure - Halifax: An Urban Design Approach*
Wellman, Barry, ed. *Networks in the Global Village: Life in Contemporary Communities*

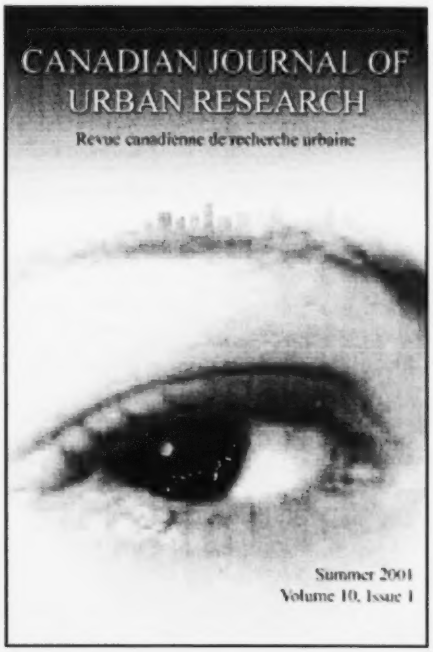
Winnipeg's Retail Revolution

By Brian Lorch, Visiting Scholar

As part of my sabbatical leave from Lakehead University's Geography Department, I have begun a research program to monitor retail development in Winnipeg. In the past three years, Winnipeg has witnessed a surge in the construction of retail space in both the Polo Park area and on its suburban fringe. This surge has included the insertion of several new power centres onto the retail landscape. Interestingly, development has taken several forms including infill development (St. James Station, Crossroads Station), total redevelopment of a traditional shopping centre (Unicity) and green field development (Kenaston & McGillivray).

My research focuses on eight shopping nodes in the city, all of which have attracted some big-box store development. The first stage of the research has entailed the creation of a baseline inventory of commercial activity in each of the nodes. The inventory, which has nearly 1,600 entries, includes information on addresses, business types, and the amount of space occupied. As part of this inventory building process, I am also conducting interviews with developers and owners of projects to gain a better sense of the market conditions that have spawned the surge in construction. In the second stage, profiles of each node will be developed allowing for comparison of such factors as tenant mixes and vacancy rates across the nodes. The third and most important stage of the research will be an ongoing monitoring of each node at six-month intervals to track change. Of special interest will be the extent of migration of national chains from sites in some of the smaller strip malls and plazas located in close proximity to power centres, and the time necessary for such vacated premises to be absorbed or re-occupied by other businesses.

I would be most interested in talking with anyone who has an interest Winnipeg's evolving retail environment. I can be reached at IUS at (204) 982-1146 or by e-mail at b.lorch@uwinnipeg. ca.



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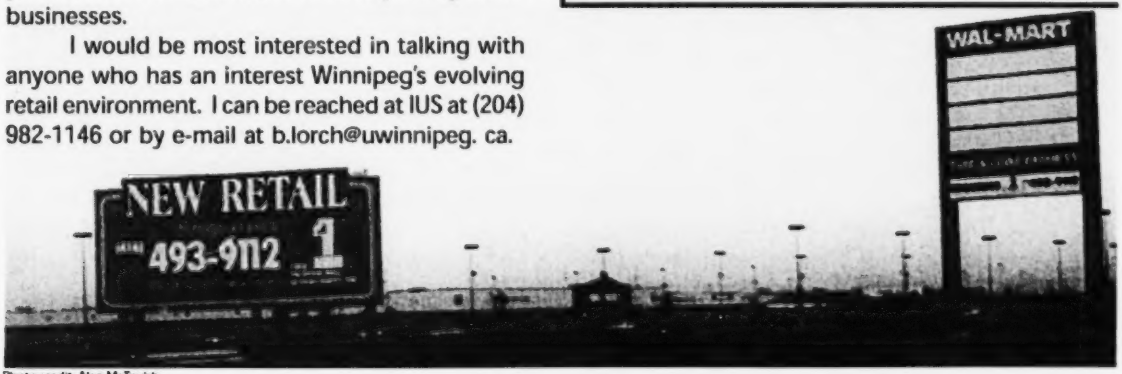

Photo credit: Alan McTavish

Research Briefs - Ongoing Research at IUS

Provincial and Territorial Interests in Land Use Planning and Development

IUS is currently leading a national study on land use planning and development. In conjunction with Urban Aspects Consulting Ltd (Victoria, BC) and the Rural and Small Town Programme (Sackville, NB), the Institute is completing a final report which will provide a Canadian overview of planning practices and priorities across the country, evaluating different models and highlighting key issues. The report will be made available to policy makers and practitioners, providing a useful resource which compares different approaches to land use planning and identifies best practices.

Homelessness Governance

IUS, in conjunction with other strategic partners, has undertaken a national study of homeless governance. The aim of this project is to critically review homeless agencies from across the country through face-to-face surveys and focus groups. The objective is to document and detail best practices and governance structures in the provision of services to homeless persons. The scope of this research will include the structural organization of the agencies, financial operations and the delivery of services. When completed, this project will contribute greatly to the understanding of the operational structures of a diverse number of agencies serving the homeless from across the country.

Aboriginal Longitudinal Mobility Study

The Aboriginal Longitudinal Mobility Study will look at the service needs of Aboriginal households that have recently moved into Winnipeg from smaller communities and reserves in Manitoba. Sponsored by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Metis Federation and Western Diversification, the survey will track service use among households over a period of 18 months. The study will collect a host of information, such as which services newly-arrived households currently use, what needs are not being met by existing services, and how services can be strengthened to better meet the needs of this population. Recognizing the high level of mobility among the Aboriginal population in Manitoba, the study aims to ensure that the necessary structures are in place to ease the transition process.

Home Ownership Education Training Project

IUS, working with the Starr Group from Ontario and the Rural and Small Towns Programme at Mount Allison University, has been engaged by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to develop a Home Ownership Education and Training Program. The Program will be designed for first-time home buyers of all incomes, as well as low-income households participating in publicly-sponsored housing initiatives designed to assist them to become home owners. The work will include the development of course material, a trainer's guide and course evaluation material. The course material and delivery approaches will be tested in at least two locations in January and February 2002.

Survey and Literature Review of Socioeconomic Trends Affecting Consumers and Housing Markets

IUS, working with the Rural and Small Towns Programme (Mount Allison University), is undertaking a study of current and future trends that are expected to affect consumers in general and housing markets in particular. In addition to an extensive review of national and international literature, the work will also include interviews with key informants across the nation. The study will cover both urban and rural housing markets.

Housing Needs of Low Income People Living in Rural Areas

IUS, working with the Starr Group from Ontario and the Rural and Small Towns Programme at Mount Allison University, is undertaking a study for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation of housing needs of low-income households in rural areas. In addition to conducting a review of existing literature, including government documents, the study will analyze Statistics Canada Data and undertake field work in approximately ten case study areas across the nation, including the areas in the North. IUS is responsible for all case study work in the four western provinces and the North.

Fort Garry Community Network: A Community Inventory of Programs and Services for Children 0 to 5

This project is designed to develop a better understanding of the delivery of programs and services available for children under the age of five and their parents in the Fort Garry/St. Norbert neighbourhoods. The Institute's role is to compile a detailed inventory of programs aimed at children and their parents in the area. Working closely with the Fort Garry Community Network, the Institute will undertake an extensive survey of service providers and conduct focus groups to assess the current delivery structure and identify service gaps. One key aspect of this research will be the Institute's continued commitment to employing University of Winnipeg students in collecting primary data and conducting interviews.

Recent IUS Publications

Guidelines for Federal Priorities in Urban Areas (January 30, 2001; 34 pages; $7)

Based on discussion which took place at a *Roundtable on Federal Policy Priorities in the Winnipeg Area* in November 2000, this report presents a number of guidelines and principles that could serve as a basis for reviewing federal policy in urban areas, with a particular focus on Winnipeg. The report identifies possible strategies and areas of potential federal involvement in cities, and highlights the need for national support of urban areas given the challenges facing cities today. It also includes notes from a comparative US perspective presented to the roundtable by Dr. Alan F.J. Artibise, of the Public Policy Research Center, University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Infill Housing Report (February 26, 2001; 49 pages; $10)

The proceedings of the **Infill Housing Forum** *2000* address a range of issues including housing markets and financing as well as unit design, neighbourhood revitalization, building techniques and policy responses associated with the development of infill housing in Winnipeg's inner city. The proceedings reflect the perspectives of community organizations, homebuilders, conservationists and the real estate industry, among others. Also included is a summary of the keynote address by Dr. Avi Friedman, internationally-renowned expert on affordable housing.

Cont'd on next page...

Cont'd from Recent Publications...

Prairie Urban Congress Report (March 2001, 54 pages; $7)
This publication offers the proceedings of the *Prairie Urban Congress*, a two-day workshop on affordable housing initiatives in Prairie Metropolitan Areas attended by 50 representatives from Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton, as well as 15 representatives from the provincial and federal governments. Themes addressed include developing partnerships, current initiatives in each city, future policy directions, housing trust funds, funding and financing solutions and community capacity-building. The keynote address by Steve Pomeroy on *Creating Comprehensive Partnerships to Support Local Housing Initiatives* is also included.

Common Interest Developments in Canada: Private Communities and the Future of Canadian Cities (Paul Hesse; 2001; Student Paper #14; $4)
This paper looks at the phenomenon of Common Interest Developments (CIDs) in Canada, comparing them to their counterparts in the United States. Examining commonalities and differences among CIDs (often referred to as gated communities), the paper argues that Canadian developments share many similarities with those in the US. The paper also explores potential consequences of CIDs for Canadian cities, including the privatization of basic services, arguing that CIDs constitute an effective political lobbying force and have, in some cases, begun to assume some of the roles of local government.

Subsidizing Professional Sports Teams and Building New Facilities: Flagship Projects for Urban Renewal, or Corporate Welfare? (Kurt Sargent; 2001; Student Paper #15; $4)
This paper takes a critical look at claims made about the benefits new sporting facilities bring to urban communities, calling into question their viability as a tool for urban renewal. The paper argues that potential benefits to the community, including increased municipal revenue, economic growth, and job creation, are overstated, while the costs of ongoing subsidies and capital investments are downplayed. The paper questions the wisdom of using new sports facilities as tools for urban renewal, particularly in light of rapidly escalating player salaries and ticket prices which jeopardise communities' ability to retain their teams.

Impacts of Discounted University Student Transit Fares on the Public Transit System in Winnipeg (Christa Jacobucci; 2001; Student Paper #16; $4)
In 2000, Winnipeg Transit implemented a discounted monthly transit pass for post secondary students. The cost savings from this monthly pass has encouraged a small number of students to use public transit more often. However, this study showed that Winnipeg Transit and university students would see greater benefits if a mandatory reduced-rate semester pass was implemented. Such a semester pass would create an incentive for university students to increase their ridership on public transit, and create greater revenue for Winnipeg Transit.

The Impact of the University of Winnipeg on Retailing in Downtown Winnipeg (Tom Janzen, April 11, 2001; 16 pages; $4)
This study was undertaken as part of a larger study on student housing to examine and evaluate the impact of the University of Winnipeg on retail in the downtown. The study was based on a survey of downtown store owners and managers. The study found that the presence of the University of Winnipeg in the downtown is important to the success of many retail establishments. The study also looked at variations in the University's impact on stores located in Portage Place mall and on streets, and examined retailers' attitudes towards student housing.

Report on the Student Impact Survey (Tom Janzen, June 11, 2001; 13 pages; $3.50)
The *Student Impact Survey* was undertaken as part of a larger student housing study to determine the economic impact that the expenditures and activities of the University of Winnipeg student body have on

Cont'd on next page...

Cont'd from Recent Publications...

Winnipeg's downtown. The study was based on a survey of students which asked them about their spending habits. The study concluded that students spend a significant amount of money on goods and services in the downtown. The study also found that the amount of money spent by students downtown would have been significantly reduced had they not been attending the University of Winnipeg. Also examined were transportation modes used to get to university, and issues such as student employment and volunteering downtown.

Report on the Residence Satisfaction Survey (Stephanie Heidenreich, March 23, 2001; 17 pages; $3.50) The *Residence Satisfaction Survey* was undertaken to measure the level of satisfaction of 32 students living in the University of Winnipeg's student housing in the West Broadway neighbourhood. The survey indicated that students were highly satisfied with the accommodation overall, and that they felt favourable toward the neighbourhood. Most respondents indicated that living in residence had led them to become more active on campus and in the community. Data is produced in 25 charts.

To order publications, please contact Jillian Golby at tel. (204) 982-1140, j.golby@uwinnipeg.ca.
Or visit our website for more publications listings at
http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/~ius/publications.htm

New Staff at IUS

Christa Jacabucci

Christa Jacobucci is an Urban Studies major at the University of Winnipeg who is presently completing a four-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Policy and the Environment, as well as a double major in Politics. Along with attending classes she has been working at the Institute of Urban Studies on such projects as *Governance In Local Partnerships To Address Homelessness* which focused on specific case studies of homelessness agencies from across Canada; the *Longitudinal Aboriginal Mobility Study* that is taking place in Winnipeg over the next 18 months; as well as the *Kapyong Barracks: Future Development Options for 17 Wing South Property* project. Christa feels that the Institute of Urban Studies has given her the opportunity and skills necessary to study various topics and broaden her interests, which include housing, transportation, revitalization and redevelopment issues.

Tom Janzen

Tom Janzen has worked as a researcher at IUS since May 2001. He is in his final year in Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg. His main interests are in housing and inner city revitalization issues. Tom has participated in a number of IUS projects including: preliminary work on student housing initiatives for the University of Winnipeg; an examination of housing trends in Brandon as part of a study on the Maple Leaf Plant; and some preliminary work on the Kapyong Barracks project. Most recently, Tom has been working on a study examining the spatial distribution of social assistance in Winnipeg.

Jillian Golby

Jillian Golby, a recent addition to IUS staff, is a Research Associate and Administrative Secretary for the Institute. Jillian graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1999 with a BA Honours degree. Her thesis and main research interest is the phenomenon of gated communities in Canada and the United States. Her article entitled "Gated Communities: Coming Soon to a Neighbourhood Near You!" is published in *Prairie Perspectives: Geographical Essays* (Vol. 3, October 2000). Thanks to funding provided by the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, she has spent the last 8 months co-developing a model to quantify the socio-economic impacts of climate change on rural municipalities in the Prairies (2001).

Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance
Updates on Community-based Research Volume 1, Issue 1

The Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance: An Introduction

The Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance (WIRA) is a diverse group of academic and community partners who have come together to combine their strengths and resources in promoting the development of sustainable inner-city neighbourhoods. Tapping the expertise of all its members, WIRA builds on the synergies inherent in a multi-stakeholder approach. WIRA initiatives will include such projects as: designing sustainable home ownership programs for low income people; understanding the needs of marginalized youth; developing priorities for future inner-city programs; developing a Quality of Life database; conducting research into rooming houses; and developing a guide for pro-active building management. These research projects focus on Winnipeg's inner city, but are also relevant to many other Canadian cities.

WIRA funds partnerships between community groups and academic researchers to undertake the research required to better meet community needs. The initiative draws on the resources and expertise of the local community, including a diverse range of community organizations, academics and researchers, and policy makers. The goal is for all community stakeholders to work together to identify and address key issues in the inner city. The initiative funds a number of action-oriented research projects that will ultimately improve the quality of life in the inner city.

WIRA is funded through the Community-University Research Alliance program administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The $600,000 three-year grant from SSHRC is complemented by a $336,350 contribution from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). WIRA gratefully acknowledges the generous funding of both agencies, without whose support the current community research initiatives could not take place.

Keep Informed about Upcoming WIRA Activities!

The best way to learn about upcoming sessions, events, activities and deadlines is to join our email list. If you would like to be included, please send a message to s.heidenreich@uwinnipeg.ca.

Who is WIRA?

WIRA is a body of community and academic partners interested in conducting community-based research on issues affecting Winnipeg's inner city. All interested community members and members of the academic community are welcome to become involved.

WIRA is governed by an Executive Steering Committee, chaired by the University of Winnipeg's V.P. Research, **Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz**. Committee members are: **Paul Chorney** (West Broadway Neighbourhood); **Dennis Cleve** (CMHC Representative, advisory/liaison capacity); **Doug Edmond** (Winnipeg School Division No. 1); **Wayne Helgason** (Social Planning Council of Winnipeg); **Wendy Josephson** (University of Winnipeg); **Garry Loewen** (North End Neighbourhood); **Ken McCluskey** (University of Winnipeg); **Linda McFadyen** (Province of Manitoba); **Derek Pachal** (SEED Winnipeg); **Joyce Rankin** (Crocus Investment Fund); **Ursula Stelman** (City of Winnipeg); **Shannon Watson** (Spence Neighbourhood); and **Dale Watts** (Red River College).

Serving as a resource to the committee are **Tom Carter**, Research Liaison Director and **Roewan Crowe**, Community Liaison Director. The project's Executive Assistant is **Stephanie Heidenreich**.

For more information about the WIRA project, please contact Stephanie Heidenreich, Executive Assistant. E-mail s.heidenreich@uwinnipeg.ca, tel. (204) 982-1150. An overview document outlining the initiative in greater detail is also available upon request.

Announcing WIRA Projects for Spring and Fall 2001

WIRA is pleased to announce the approval of six innovative research projects in 2001. Each project draws on different strengths in the community, and a wealth of academic knowledge and experience. A number of research themes emerge from the projects approved this year, namely: youth issues, inner-city housing, and projects to aid in assessing priorities for future programs in the inner city.

Giving Voice to Marginalized Youth: Exploration of Health and Well-being

Spring 2001

Nancy C. Higgitt, University of Manitoba
Janice Ristock, University of Manitoba
Margaret Church, Operation Go Home

This study will employ participatory action research to explore the health concerns of marginalised youth as they are understood by the youth themselves. The study will be geared at street-involved youth and generate information about youth-at-risk. Providing a better understanding of personal experiences, meanings and perceptions of health will enable service-providers and policy-makers to develop more effective approaches to prevention.

Citizen Participation in the Development of Inner City Revitalization Policies: Inner City Revitalization Priorities

Spring 2001

Jim Silver, University of Winnipeg
Tom Simms, Urban Futures Group

The project aims to develop a mandate from the community on which a renewed tri-level inner city revitalization agreement could be based. The research involves a community survey to be conducted through personal interviews. The survey seeks to identify guiding principles for inner city renewal, revitalization priorities and preferred program delivery models for such an agreement.

Developing Sustainable Home Ownership Programs for Low Income Households

Spring 2001

Tom Carter, University of Winnipeg; Institute of Urban Studies
Paul Chorney, West Broadway Development Corporation; Inner City Housing Coalition

This study will examine the viability of home ownership for low-income households by evaluating various homeownership programs geared at lsuch households in urban centres throughout the prairies. The project seeks to determine the sustainability of these programs and their long-term social and economic impacts on households, and to assess the potential of these programs to serve as neighbourhood revitalization tools. The study aims to identify various ways to help make home ownership more sustainable and strengthen its contribution to neighbourhood revitalization.

Rooming Houses in Winnipeg: Best Practices for a Viable Low-Cost Housing Alternative

Fall 2001

Jino Distasio, Institute of Urban Studies
Michael Dudley, Institute of Urban Studies
Mike Maunder, Westminster Housing Society

Rooming houses have long been a neglected aspect of the housing market, despite the fact that they are a major contributor to affordable housing in inner city neighbourhoods such as Spence and West Broadway. This study examines rooming houses from a critical perspective considering their condition, amenities, characteristics of residents and their satisfaction levels as well as the nature and quality of property management. The object of the research is to suggest ways of improving this form of accommodation to effectively ameliorate the existing situation.

WIRA Research cont'd...

Winnipeg Quality of Life Project

Fall 2001

Leslie L. Roos, Manitoba Health Centre of Excellence
Jr., Katherine Leigh Frohlich, Manitoba Health Centre of Excellence
Derek Pachal, SEED Winnipeg
Shirley Forsyth, Community Researcher

This project addresses the lack of neighbourhood statistical data and survey information on the quality of life in inner-city communities. The research will develop a set of quality of life indicators appropriate in the Winnipeg context, and use these indicators to collect information about Winnipeg neighbourhoods. This data will be synthesized with existing social indicator statistics to create a new information base, thereby establishing a baseline by which to measure changes in quality of life.

Guide to Better Building Management for Pro Active Managers

Fall 2001

Stefano Grande, Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation and the Faculty of Planning; University of Manitoba
Linda Williams, West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Resource Centre
Vince Sansregret, West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Resource Centre

The research team will develop a ***Guide for Better Management for Pro Active Managers*** to encourage landlords and/or property managers to better manage their buildings. The project will draw on the experiences of the Tenant Landlord Cooperation (TLC) program to provide information about how tenant participation in the tenant selection process may lead to greater success in stabilizing the tenant base.

WIRA applications are available to anyone interested in undertaking community-based research in Winnipeg's inner city. Please contact Roewan Crowe at (204) 982-1174 or r.crowe@uwinnipeg.ca.

Creating Community-University Partnerships in the Inner City

By Roewan Crowe, Community Liaison Director

My name is Roewan Crowe and I'm taking on the challenge of facilitating research from "the grassroots up". I've been the Community Liaison Director at WIRA for almost 6 months now, and in this time I've been scurrying around town meeting with as many community groups as I can. My goal is to learn about what's happening in Winnipeg's inner-city communities, to listen for common threads, and help to facilitate productive collaborative connections between community groups and academic researchers. Community research is research *by*, *with*, and *for* communities. It is research that serves communities needs. Our goal at WIRA is to fund, support and engage in research that leads to building capacity in communities, useful public policy, and dynamic programs that reflect community needs. Take a moment to read about WIRA and the exciting projects that are already underway. Spread the word.

Watch for the Website!

WIRA is in the process of developing a website which will make information about the initiative easily accessible over the Internet. In addition to providing up-to-date information about current research, deadlines, workshops and community events, the site will include electronic application forms and guidelines, community links and a list of resources for community-based research. It is anticipated that the website will be up and running in early 2002.

Upcoming WIRA Summer Institute

From June 3 to 8 2002, WIRA will host a one-week intensive Summer Institute tagretting university students and community practisioners. The Summer Institute will provide an opportunity for the transfer of knowledge relevant to community development. The Summer Institute will address the social, economic and physical infrastructure needs of Winnipeg's inner-city neighbourhoods, with an emphasis on capacity-building and sustainable practice. More details will be available in 2002!